

**Amendments to Claims**

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14. (cancelled)
15. (currently amended) A dehydrothermally cross-linked, collagen sponge wetted with an aqueous medium prepared by a method comprising:
  - (a) preparing an aqueous dispersion of insoluble collagen or solution of soluble collagen;
  - (b) casting the dispersion or the solution of soluble collagen into a shape desired for end use;
  - (c) freezing the cast shape;
  - (d) lyophilizing the frozen, cast shape to form a collagen sponge;
  - (e) dehydrothermally cross-linking the lyophilized collagen sponge;
  - (f) wetting the dehydrothermally cross-linked sponge in a non-aqueous water soluble solvent; and
  - (g) washing the sponge wetted with a non-aqueous water soluble solvent with an aqueous solution.
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87. (new) The collagen sponge of claim 15 wherein, in said method, the average cross-sectional area of a plurality of said sponges when wet is within +/-20% of the value for average cross-sectional area of said sponges when unwetted.
88. (new) The collagen sponge of claim 15 wherein the average maximum diameter of a plurality of said sponges is within +/-20% of the value for the average maximum diameter of said plurality of said sponges when unwetted.
89. (new) The collagen sponge of claim 15 wherein said sponge is a particulate.
90. (new) The collagen sponge of claim 15 wherein said sponge is spherical.
91. (new) The collagen sponge of claim 15 wherein said sponge is non-spherical.
92. (new) The collagen sponge of claim 15 wherein said sponge has a sheet form.
93. (new) The collagen sponge of claim 89 wherein said sponge has a diameter no less than 0.25 mm and no greater than 10 mm.
94. (new) The collagen sponge of claim 15 wherein, in said method, collagen is present in said dispersion in an amount no less than 0.05% and no greater than 10% based on weight of said dispersion.
95. (new) The collagen sponge of claim 15 wherein, in said method, said dispersion or solution further comprises a protein, carbohydrate, lipid, or mixture thereof.
96. (new) The collagen sponge of claim 15 wherein said sponge has an average maximum pore diameter no less than 3  $\mu$  and no greater than 16  $\mu$ .
97. (new) The collagen sponge of claim 15 wherein said sponge has an average maximum pore area no less than 10 mm<sup>2</sup> and no greater than 200 mm<sup>2</sup>.
98. (new) The collagen sponge of claim 15 wherein step (g) comprises washing with a series of mixtures comprising a non-aqueous water soluble solvent and water, wherein progressively higher levels of water are employed from one wash to the next wash.
99. (new) The collagen sponge of claim 15 wherein the lyophilized collagen sponge is subjected to milling in a cryogenic medium before dehydrothermally cross-linking the lyophilized collagen sponge.
100. (new) The collagen sponge of claim 99 wherein the milled particles are separated into ranges by sieving in a cryogenic medium after milling and before lyophilization.
101. (new) The collagen sponge of claim 99 wherein the lyophilized collagen sponge is subjected to simultaneously milling and sieving the shape into particles in a cryogenic medium prior to dehydrothermally cross-linking the lyophilized collagen sponge.
102. (new) The collagen sponge of claim 15 wherein step (b) involves casting a shape by employing a mold.

103. (new) The collagen sponge of claim 15 wherein said freezing of said cast shape comprises the use of liquid nitrogen.
104. (new) A composition comprising a microorganism and the collagen sponge of claim 15.
105. (new) A composition comprising a pharmaceutical agent and the collagen sponge of claim 15.